Bullet Train Project

694. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the status of a first Bullet Train Project between Mumbai and Ahmedabad, which is to be completed by 2010;

(b) whether the techno-economic feasibility report for the above project has been completed;

(c) what is the primary outcome of the report;

(d) whether it is also a fact that former Chairman of Railway Board holds different views regarding the project; and

(e) if so, what is the stand of Government on the implementation of the Bullet Train Project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Ministry of Railways has got the Feasibility Study for the high speed Rail link project between Mumbai and Ahmedabad done through Rail India Technical and Engineering Services (RITES) Ltd. The estimated cost of the project was Rs. 20, 352 crore. The rate of return was found to be very low.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The high speed train project is no longer a priority of Government of India.

Gauge Conversion of Lumding-Manu Railway Line

695. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the railway lines taken up for conversion of metre-gauge to broad gauge during the year 2005-06 and the status of progress thereof;

(b) whether the entire railway line from Lumding to Manu in Assam-Tripura sector has been selected for broad gauging during 2006-07;

(c) whether this would be treated as a national project;

(d) if the answer to the part (b) and (c) above are in the negative, the reasons therefore; and

(e) in case it is in the affirmative the time-frame of the respective works?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) A statement is enclosed (*See* below)

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir. Gauge Conversion of Lumding-Silchar-Jiribam and Badarpur-Baraigram has been declared as 'National Project'. It has been decided to take up conversion of line from Baraigram to Kumarghat also as a part of this project. Kumarghat-Manu-Agartala New Line is also a National Project.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) March, 2009.

Statement

LUMDING-MANU RAILWAY LINE

Conversion of Metre-Gauge to Broad Gauge

S. No.	Name of Project	Status
1.	Chhindwara-Nagpur (Gauge Conversion)	Final Location Survey has been completed and tenders for earthwork and bridges invited.
2.	Pratapnagar-Chhota Udepur (Gauge Conversion)	Final Location Survey on part length completed and earthwork and bridges taken up.
3.	Rewari-ringus-phulera-Ajmer (Gauge Conversion)	This is a work under execution by Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. Earthwork, bridgework etc. taken up.

Double Railway Track Under NEF Railway

696. SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the introduction of double railway track under the jurisdiction of Northeast Frontier Railway upto Tinsukia is being contemplated during Eleventh Five Year Plan;